CLAIMS

1.   A PDE 7 isozyme comprising the amino acid sequence set fourth in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5, or a homologue thereof having at least 95% homology thereto.

2.   A polynucleotide encoding a PDE 7 isozyme, said polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence set fourth in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6, or a homologue of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:6 having at least 95% homology thereto.

3.   A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 2.

4.   A host cell into which has been incorporated the PDE 7 isozyme of claim 2.

5.   The host cell of claim 4, wherein the host cell is deposited under Accession Numbers NCIMB 40995, NCIMB 40996 or NCIMB 41027.

6.   As assay method for identifying an agent that can affect PDE enzyme activity or expression, the assay method comprising
        a)   contacting an agent with the PDE 7 isozyme of claim 1; and
        b)   measuring the activity or expression of the PDE enzyme;
wherein a difference between PDE activity or expression in the absence of the agent and PDE activity or expression in the presence of the agent is indicative that the agent can affect PDE enzyme activity or expression.

7.   A process comprising the steps of:
        a)   performing the assay of claim 6;
        b)   identifying one or more agents that do affect PDE 7 isozyme activity or expression; and
        c)   preparing a quantity of those one or more identified agents.

8.   Use of a gene encoding a PDE 7 isozyme comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim 1 and/or an expression product thereof to screen for agents that can modulate the activity of the PDE 7 isozyme and/or expression product thereof.

9.   An antibody raised against a PDE isozyme according to claim 1.

10.   The antibody of claim 9, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a chimeric antibody, a single chain antibody, a Fab fragment or a fragment produced by a Fab expression library.

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11.   A hybridoma which produces said antibody of claim 9.

12.   An antisense sequence that hybridises to the PDE 7 isozyme sequence of claim 2.

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